

# **SUMMARY OF SAND-BAR DATA (1990-2001)**

**Hydrology** – Has varied from “dry” to “wet” and back to “dry” Full UB Hydrologic Cycle!

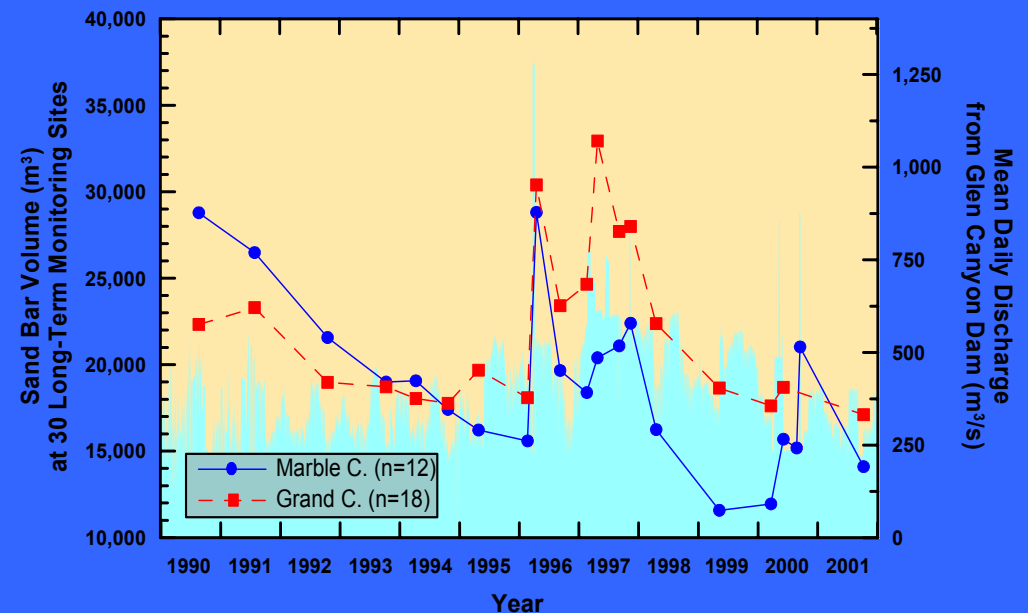
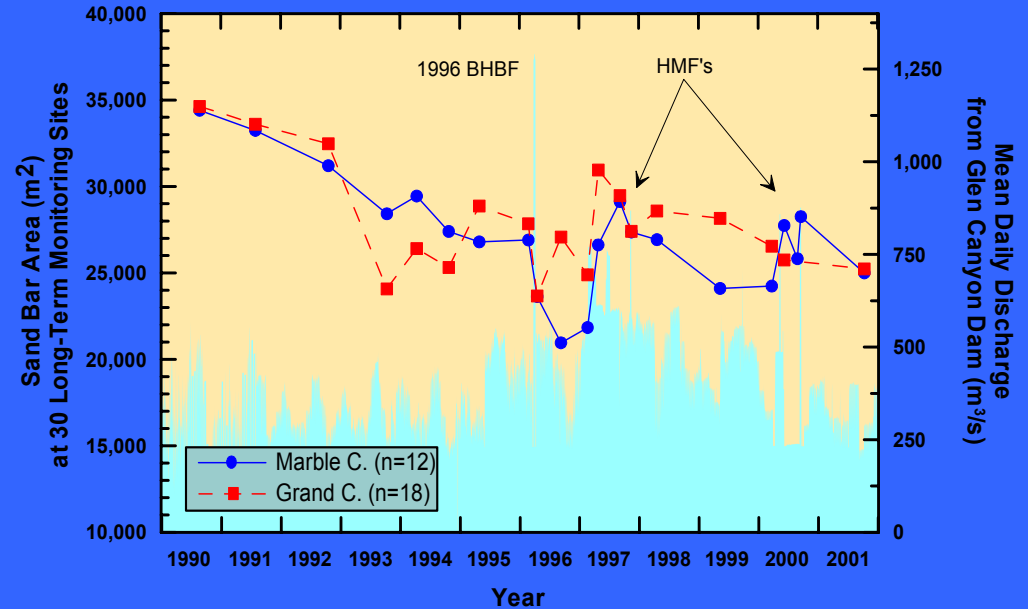
**Bar Responses** – Largest responses forced by most dramatic operations (BHBF Response)

**Long-Term Response** – Decline in all areas of Marble Canyon, but less so at high-elevation in Grand Canyon

**Cause & Effect** – Limited sediment supply with median flow increase of 75%

# TWG UPDATE - Sand Bar Areas and Volumes

## “System-Wide” In Fluctuating Zones of Eddies 1990-2001 (NAU Data)

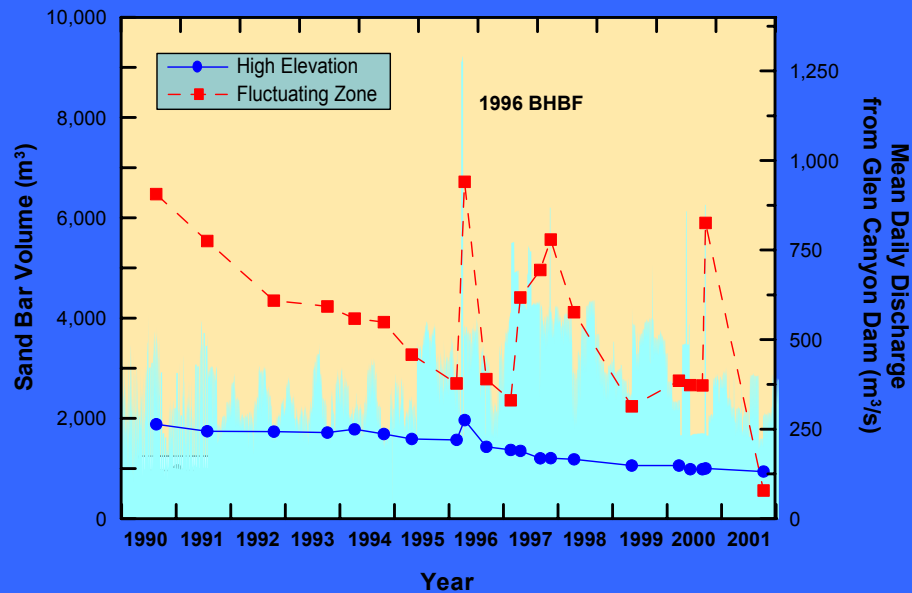
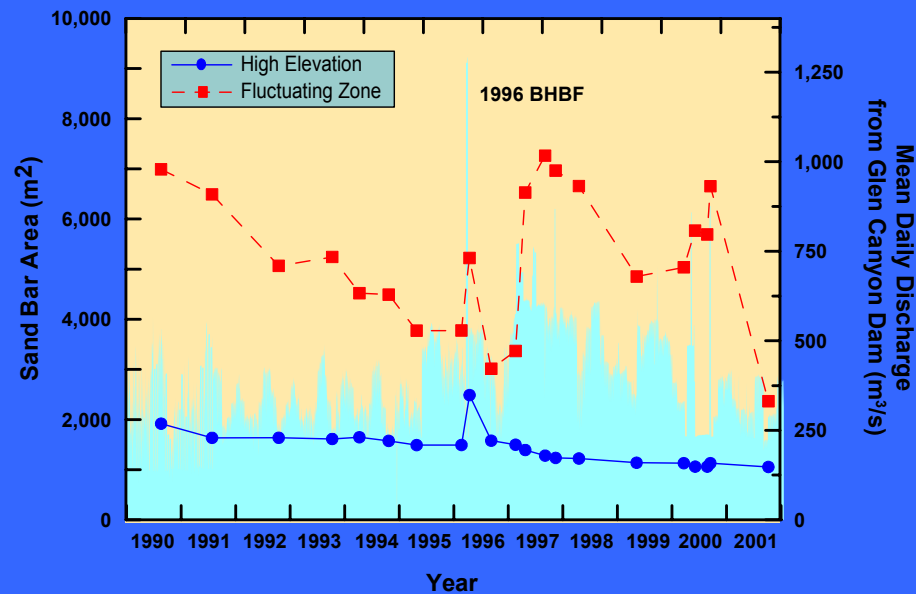


# TWG UPDATE - Sand Bar Area and Volume

## “Saddle Camp”

### 1990-2001

(NAU Data)

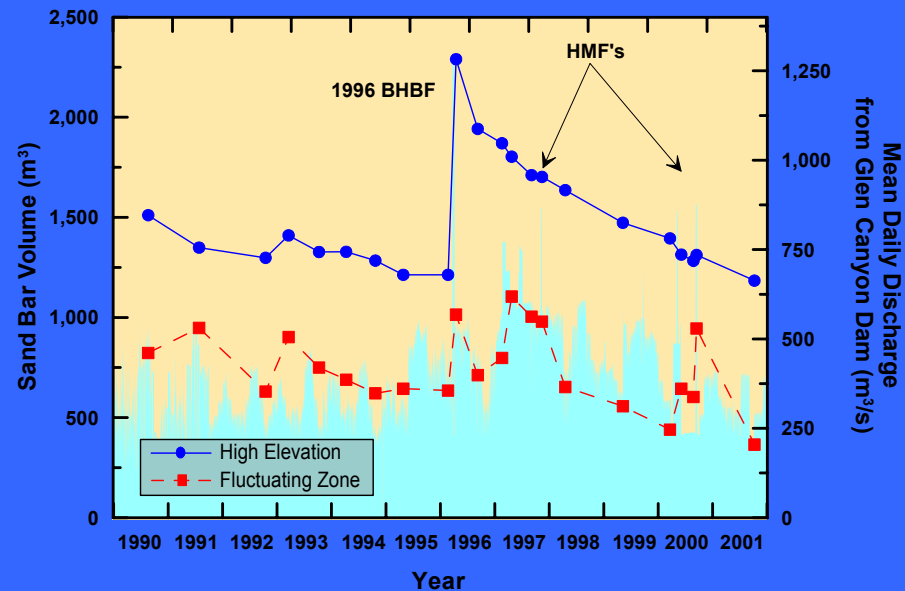
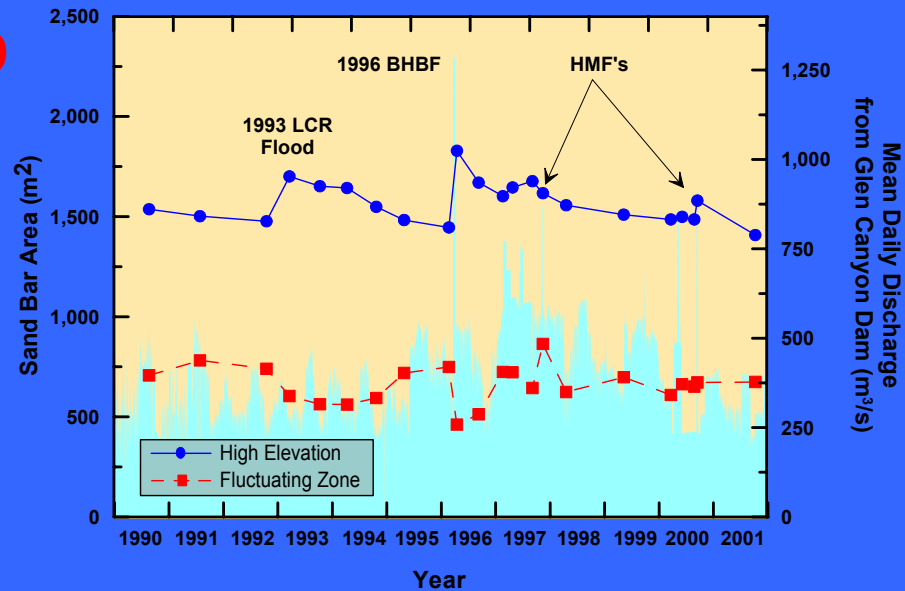


# TWG UPDATE - Sand Bar Area and Volume

## Grapevine Camp

### 1990-2001

(NAU Data)



# DOWNSTREAM FROM NANKOWEAP



1890. The pre-dam river was lined with expansive sandbars. The banks were mostly barren of vegetation up to the old high-water line (Stanton).



1991. The sandbars have disappeared, leaving exposed cobble bars. Riparian vegetation has encroached on the formerly barren banks.

# THE CAMPING BEACH DOWNSTREAM FROM TAPEATS CREEK



1952 (Kent Frost). Everyone would want to camp here now.



1995. The beach reappeared briefly after the 1996 flood.

# CHANGES AT DEER CREEK FALLS



1923. Beach present, falls fans out (LaRue)



1940. Falls fans out wider, large beach present, rocks shifted (Goldwater)



1972. Riparian vegetation chokes channel mouth, no scoured mouth of sand beach, new rocks (Turner)



2001. Tributary flood chokes channel mouth, no scoured mouth of sand beach, new rocks (Turner) and most vegetation (Brownold)

# **SUMMARY OF SAND BALANCE DATA (WY 1999-2001)**

**Basin Hydrology** – Has varied from “dry” to “wet” and back to “dry” Full UB Hydrologic Cycle Under ROD!

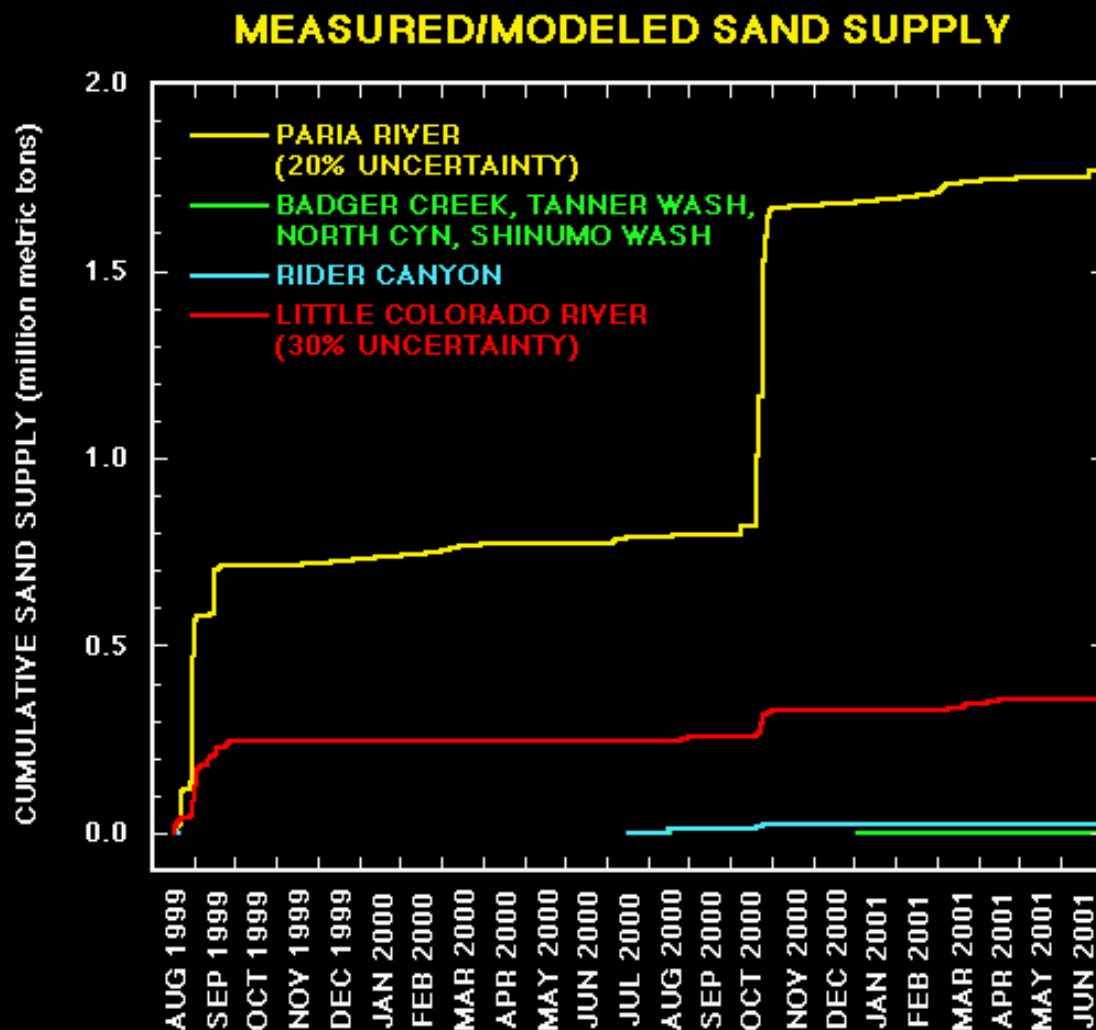
**Paria Inputs** – Sand equal to annual average (1.4 mil Mg)

**Sand Supply** – Largest responses forced by most dramatic operations (BHBF Response)

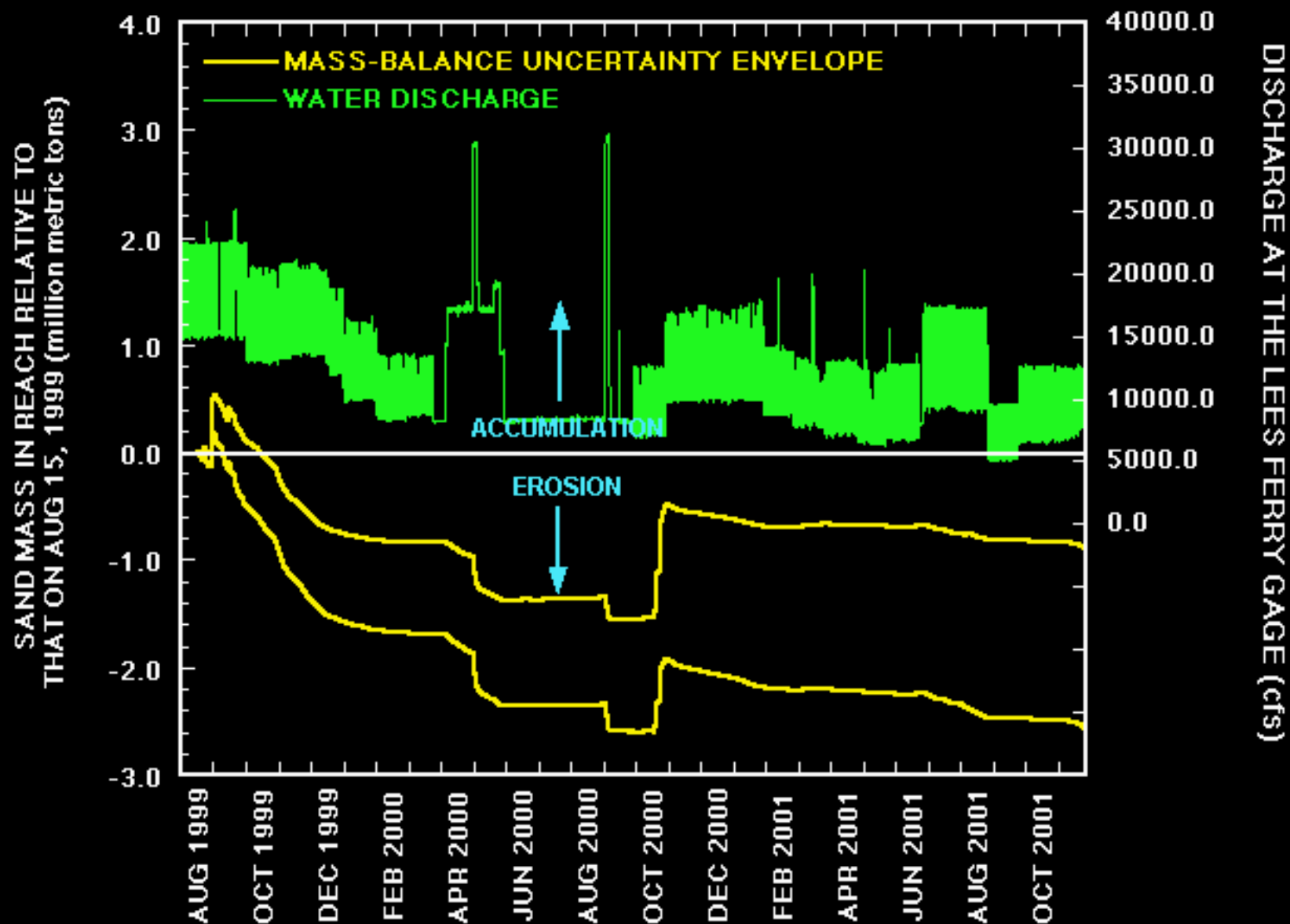
**Long-Term Response** – No evidence of channel accumulation throughout river system, but channel and eddy storage responds to mainstem hydrology

**Cause & Effect** – Declining sediment supply in system is caused by compressed flood frequency, limited supply and fine grain size of sand from downstream sources

# Sand Inputs (1999 – 2001)



# MASS-BALANCE SAND BUDGET BETWEEN LEES FERRY AND THE GRAND CANYON GAGE



# **“TAKE-HOMES” ON SAND BALANCE DATA (1999-2001)**

**Basin Hydrology** – Dry Now! Chance for Conservation  
and Restoration of Bars – *Let's Water the Canyon!*

**Sand Inputs** – Paria River Continues its Domination!

**Sand Supply** – Currently winnowed, last inputs Sept. '01  
were below average for sand from all sources!

**Long-Term Response** – No evidence of channel-sand  
accumulation, but export reduced during below-  
average ROD operations in WY 2001-2002.

**Cause & Effect** – Declining sediment supply in system is  
caused by compressed flood frequency, limited supply  
and fine grain size of sand from downstream sources

# Revisiting *BETA* Concept

## What is it?

*A New Sediment-Supply Monitoring Parameter...  
(Concentration and Grain-Size in Suspension Used to  
Back-Calculate the Grain-Size of Sediment on the Bed)*

## What does it mean?

*Quickly Tells How Enriched or Depleted the Bed Is...*

## Who Cares about more sediment information?

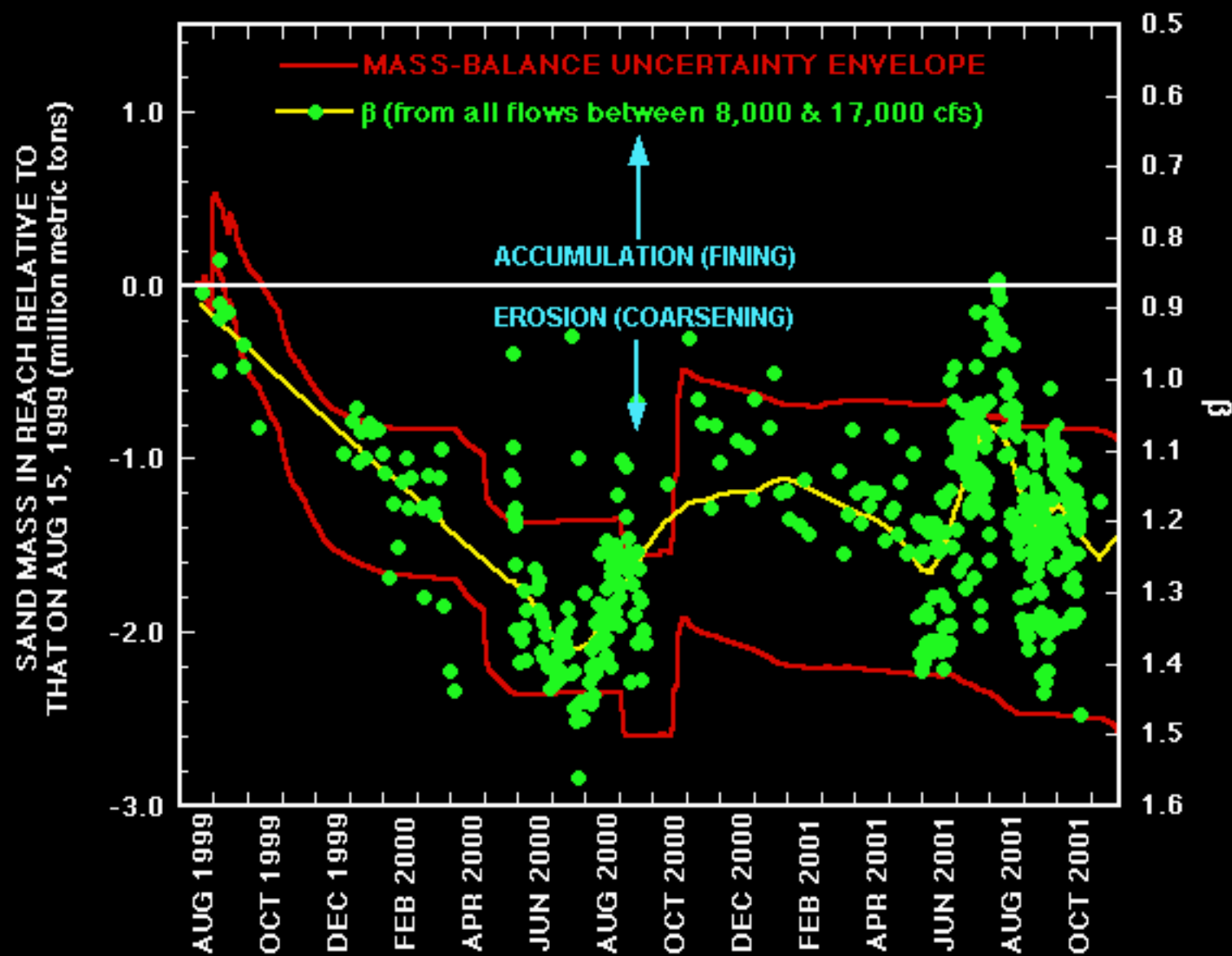
*It Could End Up Telling Us What We Need to Know For Less  
Cost and Effort in Real Time...*

## High-Flow Treatments and Spill Volumes?

*How Long Before Channel-Bed Is “Cleaned” (Whether For  
Sand-Bar Restoration or for Cleaning Gravels)*



# COMPARISON OF LF TO GC 'MASS-BALANCE' SAND BUDGET WITH 'BETA' SAND BUDGET AT THE GRAND CANYON GAGE



# SUMMARY OF *BETA* PLOT (1999-2001)

Sand Inputs – How significantly is the channel-bed enriched and over what period following tributary inputs?

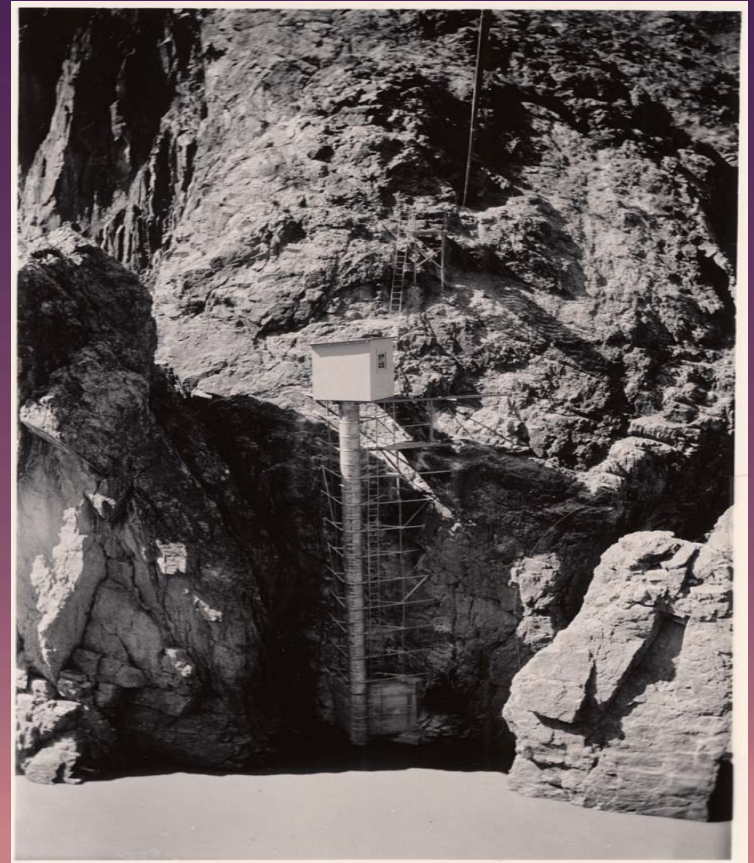
Sand Supply – When are we there? When are we not?  
When should we *Water the Canyon*?

Long-Term Monitoring – How does current level of enrichment or depletion of sand in channel compare relative to previous periods of pre- or post-dam enrichment conditions throughout a given reach?

Use w/ LISST Support – Should be able to support “Real Time” basis for evaluating sand-supply dynamics throughout the ecosystem’s “active-transport” channel

# Grand Canyon Gage (Built 1934)

- **Extremely Reliable Flow Record**
- **Just US from SS Cross-Section**
- **Flow & Sediment Record (1925-2002)**
- **Well-Mixed Flow Zone (turbulent)**
- **Historically Significant Test Site for USGS Sediment Samplers**
- **Ideal Setting for LISST Deployment and Testing**
- **GCMRC Intensive Sediment Monitoring Program Provides Abundant Verification Data for New Alternative Methods**



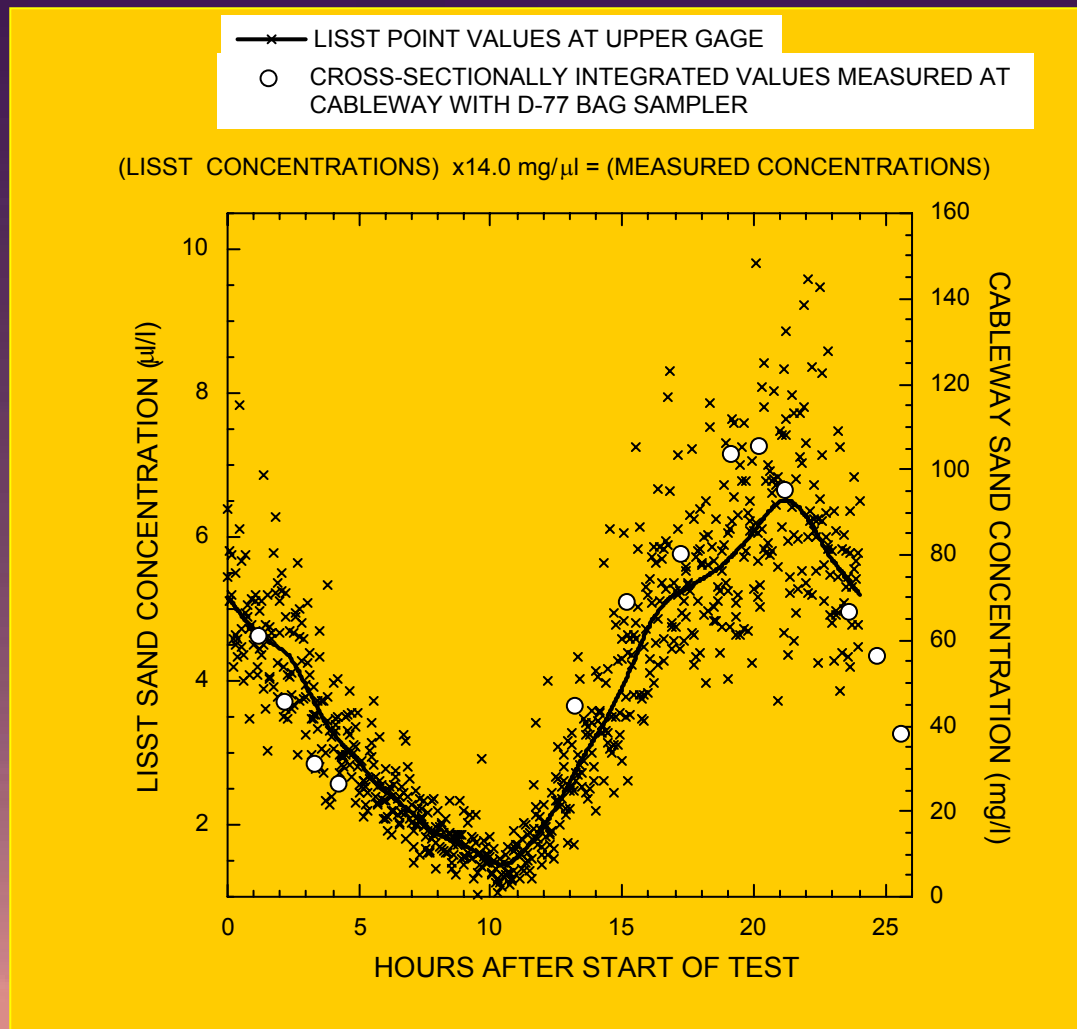
# Grand Canyon Gage

## (2001 LISST Fixed-Depth Test Site)

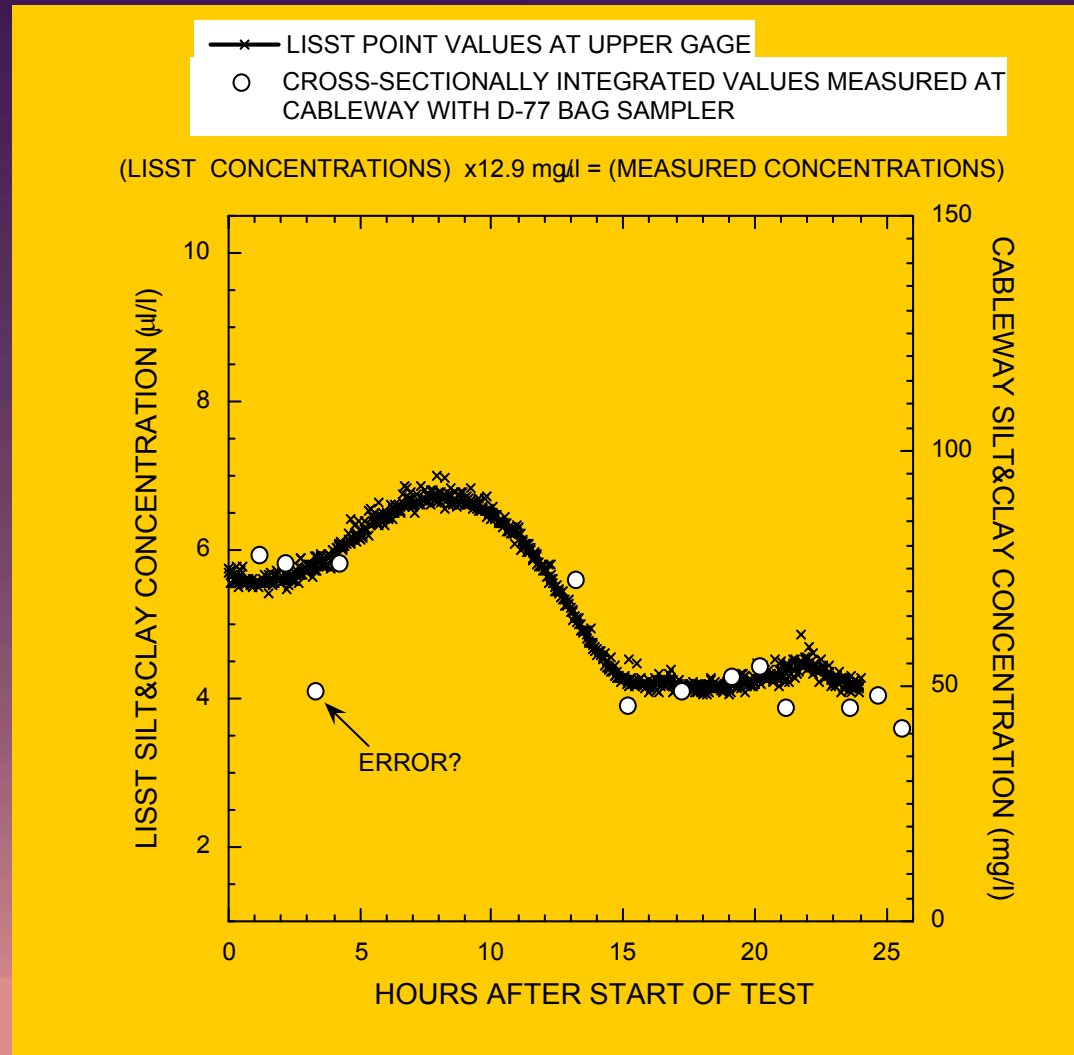
- **24-Hour Test Duration**  
(over 1-Diurnal Cycle)
- **13 – Cableway (D-77)**  
**Samples Obtained**
- **720 – LISST-100B Samples**  
(averaging 16  
measurements every 2-  
minutes)
- **Flow Range – 9,000 to**  
**17,000 cfs (typical summer)**
- **Highly Mixed Cross Section**  
**w/ Mostly Quartz Sand**
- **Bedrock-Controlled**  
**Channel w/o Flood Plains**



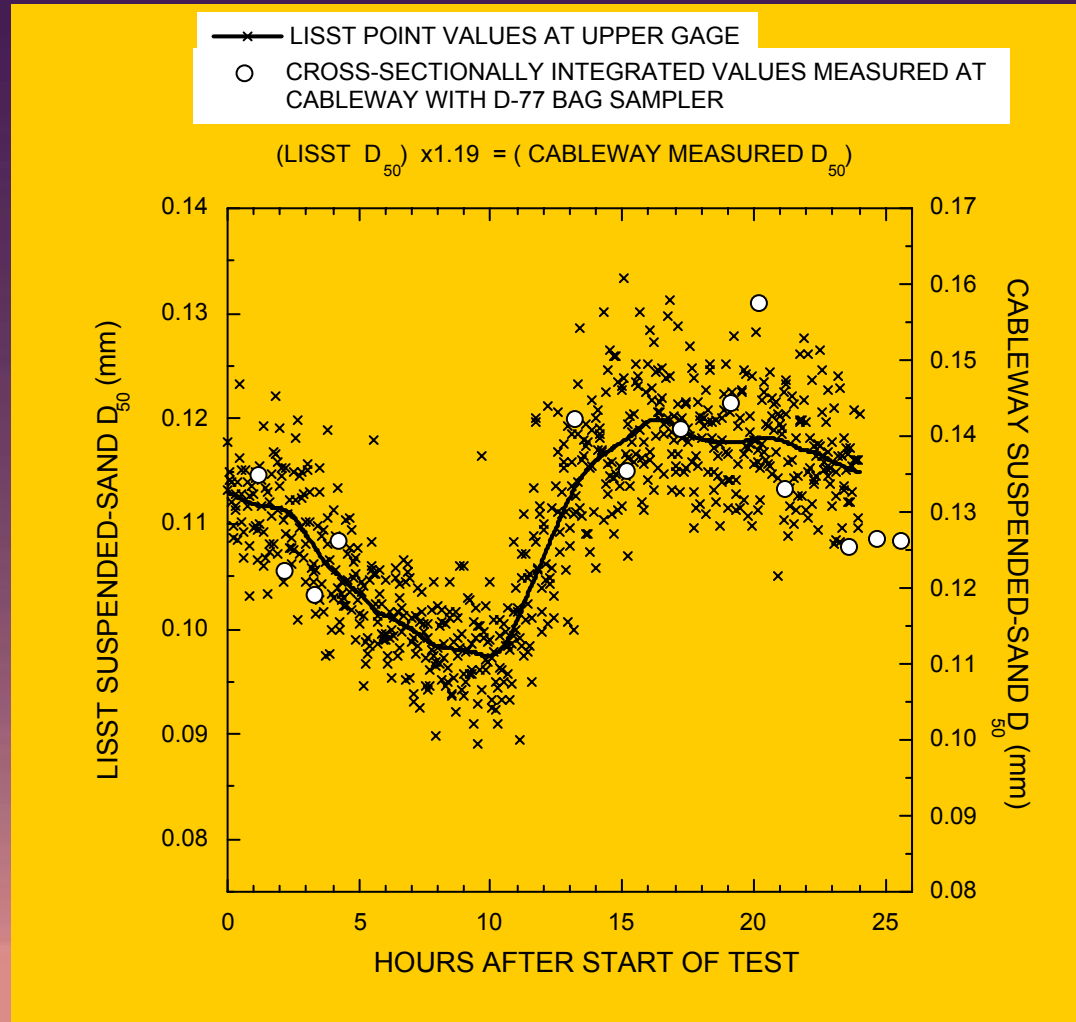
# RESULTS - SAND CONCENTRATION



# RESULTS - SILT & CLAY CONCENTRATION



# RESULTS - MEDIAN GRAIN-SIZE OF SAND



THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION . . .

Pray for Rain!